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LETTER DATED 6 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In response to the Secretariat's denial with respect to my letter dated 5 August 1993 (S/26245) in which I stated that Serbian forces employed helicopters in an offensive capacity in their latest assaults around Sarajevo, I wish to put forth for your review an Associated Press report, dated 6 August 1993 and an excerpt from an article in the New York Times, dated 7 August 1993.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter and the attached annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Annex

Mladic's tour Thursday, witnessed by United Nations officers and foreign reporters, was merely his latest show of defiance to the world.

The cocky general not only seized the mountains (Mount Bjelasnica and Mount Igman), but acknowledged using a Gazelle helicopter in direct violation of a United Nations no-fly zone.

Atop Mount Bjelasnica, reached after a three-hour drive up a tortuous mountain road, about two dozen Bosnian Serb soldiers were waiting. Also perched there was Mladic's helicopter, fitted with rocket launchers.

Asked whether he wasn't incensed by the affront to "Operation Deny Flight", Briquemont, a Belgian, replied, "Deny Flight, it is not my responsibility." That operation is enforced by NATO.

Bosnian Serb officers said 17 of their troops dislodged about 65 government soldiers from Bjelasnica over the weekend.

But a soldier who gave his name only as Branko said he parachuted onto the mountain, lending credence to the Bosnian army's claim that Serb helicopters played a key role.

Several large holes gaped in the ski lift tower on Mount Bjelasnica. Serbs said they were caused by tank fire, but United Nations officials, insisting on anonymity, said the trajectory suggested helicopter-fired missiles.

An article entitled "Serbian general is either a snake or a charmer, depending on the beholder" by John Burns in the New York Times of 7 August 1993, stated the following in regard to General Mladic's role in the offensive against Mount Bjelasnica:

> "The Lieutenant-General, who has led Serbian troops since early in the war, personally commanded a helicopter-borne assault on the Bosnian Army stronghold atop the mountain."

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